

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 /061 W
-----221137Z 037534 /12

R 221112Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6686
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05009

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, GW
SUBJECT: ROC'S UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS

REF: STATE 31454

SUMMARY: THE ROC MAINTAINS A SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC
RELATIONS AND COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE FRG, BUT
ITS INFLUENCE IS NOT THOUGHT TO BE LARGE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ROC MAINTAINS AN UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATION IN
THE FRG WHICH MAY BE ITS LARGEST IN EUROPE. IT CONSISTS
OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS: THE FAR EAST INFORMATION SERVICE
AND THE ASIA TRADE CENTER. THE WORK OF THESE TWO
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ORGANIZATIONS IS EFFECTIVE, BUT THEIR OVERALL IMPACT IS
FAIRLY LIMITED IN THE OPINION OF THE FONOFF (HELLBECK,
DIRECTOR OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS).
HELLBECK ASKED THAT WE TREAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS
REPORT AS CONFIDENTIAL, ESPECIALLY THE INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE "OFFICIAL" NATURE OF SOME OF THE WORK
CARRIED OUT BY THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PROBABILITY

THAT SOME OF THE ROC PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO FRG
ARE OFFICIALS OF THE ROC GOVERNMENT.

2. FAR EAST INFORMATION SERVICE (FEIS): IT IS THE
SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION TO THE FREE CHINA INFORMATION
SERVICE. IT MAINTAINS AN OFFICE IN BONN STAFFED BY
FIVE PERSONS, THREE OF WHOM ARE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN
HELLBECK'S OPINION. IT ALSO MAINTAINS ONE-MAN OFFICES
IN HAMBURG AND BERLIN. BOTH THESE MEN, AS WELL AS TWO
IN THE BONN OFFICE, ARE BELIEVED TO BE GENUINE NEWSMEN.
THE FONOFF DELIBERATELY KEEPS ITS CONTACTS WITH THE
FEIS TO A MINIMUM. THE CHIEF OF THE BONN OFFICE CALLS
ON HELLBECK ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS IN THE FONOFF. ALL
THE FEIS PERSONNEL RECEIVE JOURNALISTS VISAS, BUT NO
PRESS CARD OR ACCREDITATION FROM THE FEDERAL PRESS
OFFICE.

3. THE FEIS HAS FOUR ACTIVITIES:

A. A BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION, WHICH IS ISSUED UNDER THE
NAME OF A GERMAN/CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY SO THAT
THE FONOFF CAN TURN ASIDE COMPLAINTS ABOUT IT BY THE
PRC EMBASSY.

B. A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER CALLED "FREE CHINA," WHICH
PUBLISHES NEWS FROM TAIWAN. ITS CONTENT RESEMBLES
CLOSELY THAT OF NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN TAIWAN. IT
IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE MAIL.

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C. FILM AND SLIDE SHOWS IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES.
THE FEIS HAS NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING
THIS ACTIVITY.

D. LOOKING AFTER THE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 CHINESE WHO
LIVE IN THE FRG, A FAIR NUMBER OF WHOM HAVE ROC
PASSPORTS. THE FEIS HAS A THIRD PUBLICATION JUST
FOR THIS GROUP.

NONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES MAKES MUCH OF A PUBLIC IMPACT.

4. THE ASIA TRADE CENTER (ATC): IT IS THE SUCCESSOR
ORGANIZATION TO THE CENTRAL TRUST OF CHINA. IT IS
STAFFED BY FIVE PERSONS FROM THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY,
BUT THEY AND THEIR OFFICE HAVE "PRIVATE" STATUS IN THE
FRG. THE ATC PROMOTES TRADE WITH TAIWAN, WHICH TOTALS
1.5 BILLION DM ANNUALLY, AND IS CARRIED OUT PRIMARILY
BY ETHNIC CHINESE. THERE ARE BUSINESS VISITS AND "TRADE
MISSIONS" IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, BUT HELLBECK CLAIMS THAT

THEY ARE LARGELY INEFFECTIVE.

5. THE ACTIVITIES OF BOTH THE FEIS AND ATC ARE

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 /061 W

-----221136Z 037516 /12

R 221112Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6687

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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MONITORED CLOSELY BY THE PRC EMBASSY. UP UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH THE FEIS AND ATC ISSUED A "VISA APPLICATION" TO PROSPECTIVE VISITORS TO TAIWAN. THIS APPLICATION WAS A DOCUMENT WHICH GUARANTEED A VISITOR A VISA UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT ON TAIWAN. WHEN THE PRC EMBASSY OBJECTED, THE FONOFF INSISTED THAT FEIS AND ATC DISCONTINUE USING THIS FORM. THEY NOW ENCOURAGE BUSINESSMEN TO CALL AT THEIR OFFICES, WHERE THEY ARE TOLD THAT THE OFFICE WILL SEND THEIR NAMES TO TAIWAN, AN ACTION WHICH WILL GUARANTEE THEM ADMITTANCE TO THE ROC.

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6. HELLBECK CLAIMS THAT THERE IS LITTLE OR NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS CARRIED ON BETWEEN THE FONOFF AND EITHER FEIS OR ATC. MOST NECESSARY CONTACTS ARE ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE OF THE FRG ON AN AD HOC BASIS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OR MEETINGS. IN DEFERENCE TO THE PRC, NO ROC CABINET MINISTER IS GRANTED A VISA TO THE FRG. AS FOR THE FUTURE: THERE IS SOME PRESSURE FROM THE GERMAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR THE FRG TO ESTABLISH A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON TAIWAN. THE FONOFF DOES NOT WANT TO DO THIS AND SO FAR HAS SUCCESSFULLY HELD TO ITS POSITION. (ITS PUBLIC POSITION IS THAT THIS PROPOSED CHAMBER HAS A LOWER PRIORITY THAN SOME OTHERS IN ASIA.) SINCE THE FRG DID NOT RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE ROC AFTER WWII, THE JAPANESE EXAMPLE IS NOT PERTINENT. IN ANY CASE, IT APPEARS AS IF THE ROC REPRESENTATION IN THE FRG WILL CONTINUE MUCH AS IT IS TODAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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